

4th September, 1945.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BUSINESS STATISTICS - AUGUST, 1945.

C O N T E N T S.PART I PRIMARY AND EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

SEASON. Further showers in inland districts. Outlook generally favourable.

WOOL. Agreement for post-war marketing of wool.

WHEAT. Crops progressing well. Release of servicemen for harvesting arranged. Export sales value.

DAIRYING INDUSTRY. Production increasing in N.S.W.
Production of butter and cheese in N.S.W. and Australia, June, 1945 and season 1944-45.

PART II FINANCE AND TRADE.

GENERAL. Japanese surrender. Lend-lease suspended. Fourth Victory Loan. Re-establishment and Employment Bill. Premiers' Conference decisions. New capital issues. Conversion in London. Prices of new or resumed types of manufactures.

N.S.W. STATE ACCOUNTS. Revenue and Expenditure, July, 1945.

RETAIL TRADE. Sales and stocks, Large Sydney Stores, June, 1945.

PART III INDUSTRY, TRANSPORT, ETC.

GENERAL. Transition allowances (unemployment). Shipping Policy. Industrial stoppages on the coal fields. Public Works approved. Cotton textiles. Motor vehicles. Restrictions on manufacture relaxed.

EMPLOYMENT IN N.S.W. June, 1945.

BUILDING INDUSTRY. Private Permits, Metropolis, July, 1945.
Private and Gov't Building, N.S.W. June Qr., 1945.
New Houses - Private and Government, June Qr., 1945 and July, 1945.

TRANSPORT.

RAILWAYS. Passengers, Freight and Finance, July, 1945.

TRAMS AND 'BUSES. Passengers and Finance, year 1944-45.

MOTOR VEHICLES. New Vehicles and Total Registrations, July, 1945.

PART I PRIMARY AND EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

SEASON. Light to moderate rainfall at frequent intervals during August, has maintained the restored seasonal outlook in inland agricultural and pastoral areas, but as yet there is little subsoil moisture in the Riverina. Though little rain has fallen in coastal districts, other than Hunter and Manning, for some weeks, conditions continue generally favourable in major dairying centres.

Pastures are green throughout and in fair to good body. Stock have mostly regained condition, sheep are in strong demand at higher prices and the rabbit and blowfly pests are in check in most districts.

WOOL. The agreement arising out of the London Wool Conference for post-war marketing of wool is of profound importance nationally and to the wool-grower. By its operation it may be hoped that wool values may be maintained at a reasonable level whilst the accumulated stocks are fed to the market as it is capable of absorbing them.

WOOL AGREEMENT. The Prime Minister tabled a report on the London Wool Conference and its recommendations on Aug. 30, 1945 and announced the terms of the Agreement (proposed to take effect from August 1, 1945) made between the Governments of the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa for the sale of stocks of wool accumulated during the war and of new clips during the period of its disposal which may extend to fourteen years. The basic elements of the scheme are annually determined reserve prices below which wool will not be sold, and financial responsibility of the several Governments for maintaining the scheme.

Stocks of wool at 30th June, 1945 were estimated at 4,015 m.lb. of which 3,315 m.lb. were owned by the United Kingdom, including 2,060 m.lb. of Australian, 540 m.lb. of New Zealand and 645 m.lb. of South African wool. That present stocks are equivalent to two years' consumption illustrates the magnitude of the problem of disposal and simultaneously obviating a drastic collapse in wool prices.

Under the agreement each Dominion Government is to assume half ownership of that part of the United Kingdom stock which is of its country's produce, involving for Australia about £stg.40 m. (to be provided over a period of four years). As it concerns Australia costs of operating the plan will be met as to one-half by the United Kingdom and Australian Governments jointly, and one-half by the Australian Wool industry. The financing of all future purchases of wool in Australia (after 1945-46) during operation of the plan will be shared equally by the United Kingdom and Australian Governments, which also will share equally in profits or losses on the disposal of all Australian wool. Costs of operating the plan are to be charged against realisations.

A private registered company to administer the scheme is to be set up with a nominal share capital of eight shares and having eight directors, held and nominated, as to four by the United Kingdom, as to two by the Australian, and as to one by each of the New Zealand and South African Governments. This organisation is to care for and dispose of the present and accumulated stocks, recommend the annual reserve prices, engage in market operations to maintain these prices, and co-operate with all bodies concerned with increasing the use of wool. Acting as agent for the principal company, an organisation in each of the three dominions (the chairman of which will be ex-officio a director of the principal company, without increasing his country's voting power) will hold wool, sell wool from stocks and arrange auction selling of current clips, assess reserve prices for individual lots of wool, whether from stocks or current clips, and take up wool offered at auction and not sold to a commercial buyer at or above the reserve price.

The wartime system of appraisal and acquisition of wool will continue for the 1945-46 season without change in conditions or price. In subsequent seasons, as early as practicable, the growers' reserve price (replacing the wartime flat rate purchase price) is to be fixed and each grower's wool is to be appraised, the appraised price becoming the reserve price for that wool. Wool

is to be submitted at auction and should the reserve price plus the contributory charge (collectively, the auction-room reserve) be reached or exceeded, the grower will receive the benefit of the market. Should commercial bidding not reach the auction-room reserve price, the organisation will acquire the wool at that price and pay the grower accordingly. In either case selling costs will be met by the grower as at present. In effect the scheme assures an annually determined minimum price of wool to each wool producer in the three Dominions for the duration of the scheme which may be fourteen years.

WHEAT. Crops generally are growing well, but due to lateness of the breaking of the drought many in the Riverina are thin and backward. Special provision has been made for the release of soldiers, individually and in groups for harvesting. As hitherto the Harvest Workers' Award will apply in 1945-46 in respect only of the harvesting of wheat.

Plant and equipment is being sent to Nauru and Ocean Islands to enable the earliest possible resumption of the shipment of phosphate rock, but supplies in volume are unlikely to come forward for upwards of twelve months. However, phosphates from other sources are expected to result in availability of an increased supply for use for next season.

Up to the end of July, 1945 the Australian Wheat Board had sold for export 313,000 bushels of wheat from No. 7 (1943-44) Pool at an average of 7s.1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per bushel for bulk wheat, f.o.b., Australian ports.

DAIRYING INDUSTRY. The seasonal increase in production of butter in N.S.W. has begun with good prospects of a heavy spring flush. N.S.W. factories made 3.3 m. lb. of butter in June, 1945 which was 27 per cent. more than in June, 1944 but much below the average for that month. Production in 1944-45 (due to drought and manpower difficulties) at 71.7 m.lb. was 16.2 m.lbs. less than in 1943-44, about 37% below the average 1937-38 to 1939-40, and lowest of any season for twenty years. The production of cheese decreased also - from 5.15 m. lbs. in 1942-43 and 5.53 m.lbs. in 1943-44 to 4.34 m.lbs. in 1944-45.

BUTTER PRODUCED - N.S.W. FACTORIES.

| Period | Average '37-8/'39-40 | 1940/41 | 1941/42 | 1942/43 | 1943/44 | 1944/45 |
|-----------|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | lbs.(m.) | lbs.(m.) | lbs.(m.) | lbs.(m.) | lbs.(m.) | lbs.(m.) |
| July-Dec. | 54.2 | 44.1 | 39.2 | 47.4 | 44.8 | 35.1 |
| January | 12.3 | 14.5 | 6.7 | 13.0 | 12.8 | 8.0 |
| February | 11.8 | 12.8 | 8.3 | 10.2 | 10.2 | 6.8 |
| March | 11.4 | 11.7 | 10.1 | 8.6 | 8.4 | 8.3 |
| April | 10.0 | 8.7 | 8.6 | 6.1 | 5.2 | 5.8 |
| May | 8.1 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 4.8 | 3.9 | 4.5 |
| June | 6.0 | 5.2 | 5.5 | 3.7 | 2.6 | 3.3 |
| Year | 113.9 | 103.7 | 85.1 | 93.8 | 87.9 | 71.7 |

Every State except Tasmania produced less butter in 1944-45 than in 1943-44, but N.S.W. accounted for about one-half of the decrease of 30.6 m.lbs. For cheese small increases in Victoria and Tasmania were offset by decreases elsewhere, and the Australian total (77.1 m.lbs.) fell 2.9 m.lbs. below that of the preceding season.

BUTTER AND CHEESE PRODUCED - AUSTRALIAN FACTORIES.

| Period | Butter. | | | Cheese. | | |
|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | 1942-43 | 1943-44 | 1944-45 | 1942-43 | 1943-44 | 1944-45 |
| | lbs.(m.) | lbs.(m.) | lbs.(m.) | lbs.(m.) | lbs.(m.) | lbs.(m.) |
| June | 15.2 | 12.1 | 13.2 | 3.3 | 2.8 | 2.8 |
| Year | 368.2 | 337.8 | 307.2 | 80.6 | 80.0 | 77.1 |

PART II FINANCE AND TRADE.

GENERAL. Japanese surrender. The surrender of Japan on terms dictated by the Allies was completed officially in Tokio Bay on Sept. 2, 1945.

Lend-Lease. President Truman announced the immediate suspension of the lend-lease system on Aug. 22. To avert economic embarrassment the Commonwealth is endeavouring to reach a suitable agreement with the United States.

The Fourth Victory Loan of £85 m. with terms as in preceding loans will be open for subscription from Sept. 25 to Oct. 31, 1945.

The Re-establishment and Employment Act, 1945 was proclaimed on Aug. 27, 1945.

The Premiers' Conference decided to support reference of Price Control to the Commonwealth for three years after the war; to review and re-consider the Uniform Rail Gauge proposal before the end of the year; to leave Rent Control with the Commonwealth for the time being; to foster the Decentralisation of Industry; and, after adopting the Commonwealth-States agreement regarding Land Settlement of Soldiers, to seek its ratification by State Parliaments. The Prime Minister stated that Uniform Taxation would continue at least until expiry of the Act in June, 1947.

New Capital. A debenture issue of £1 m. at 4% for 15-20 years is being made by Felt and Textiles of Australia Ltd. for expansion of operations.

Conversion in London. Arrangements have been made to offer for conversion on Dec. 1, 1945 in London £14,055,000 of N.S.W. 5% stock to Commonwealth 3% registered stock 1958-60 at £98, giving a yield of £3.1s.3d. per cent. or of £3.3s.4d. for redemption at latest maturity date. With this offer conversion of £108 m. will have been carried through in 1945. Since 1932 conversion of maturing loans in London have totalled £392 m. giving an interest saving of £5.57 m.

Rules for determining prices of new or resumed types of manufactures have been announced by the Commonwealth Prices Commissioner.

N.S.W. STATE ACCOUNTS. In comparison with July, 1944 the State accounts for July, 1945 show increases of £311,000 in revenue and £230,000 in expenditure. The net balance of the combined accounts (£498,000) was £81,000 greater with the excess of payments over receipts in Consolidated Revenue Fund £68,000 less this than last year, and the excess of revenue over expenditure for business undertakings £29,000 smaller, and for main roads £41,000 greater.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS.

| Accounts. | Month of July. | | | Increase, July, 1945. |
|--|----------------|-------|-------|-----------------------|
| | 1943. | 1944. | 1945. | |
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| <u>Revenue</u> - Consolidated Fund | 1,724 | 1,818 | 1,948 | 130 |
| ϕ Business Undertakings | 3,248 | 2,970 | 3,057 | 87 |
| Main Roads | 256 | 185 | 279 | 94 |
| Total | 5,228 | 4,973 | 5,284 | 311 |
| <u>Expenditure</u> - Consolidated Fund | 2,222 | 2,172 | 2,233 | 61 |
| ϕ Business Undertakings | 2,513 | 2,225 | 2,341 | 116 |
| Main Roads | 199 | 159 | 212 | 53 |
| Total | 4,934 | 4,556 | 4,786 | 230 |
| Excess of Revenue | 294 | 417 | 498 | 81 |

ϕ Railways, Trams and 'Buses, Road Transport and Traffic Fund and Sydney Harbour.

RETAIL TRADE. In line with the recent general trend, sales in a group of large stores in Sydney in June, 1945 were 19.3 per cent. above the value in June, 1944. Over the six months ended June the increase in sales in 1945 in comparison with 1944 was 3.9 per cent. while stocks showed a gain averaging 16 per cent. and amounting to 24 per cent. as at 30th June. These changes in value cannot be related to changes in volume without taking into account movements in prices). Latterly, too, there has been some gain from the low wartime level of employment in these stores. It has been stated officially that it will be necessary to continue food and clothing rationing for some time into the post-war period, but that rationing of clothing may end in November, 1945, except of cotton goods and suitings.

RETAIL TRADE - EXPERIENCE OF LARGE SYDNEY STORES.

Percentage of Increase (+) or Decrease (-) from corresponding period previous year.

| Year | Value of Sales. | | | | | | Value of Stock. | |
|------|-----------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | Apr.-June | June | Apr.-June |
| 1942 | (+) 3.4 | (+) 25.9 | (+) 25.6 | (-) 8.7 | (-) 19.1 | (-) 2.4 | (+) 10.5 | (+) 10.2 |
| 1943 | (-) 27.5 | (-) 14.1 | (-) 16.0 | (+) 0.8 | (-) 1.3 | (-) 6.0 | (-) 10.2 | (-) 8.8 |
| 1944 | (+) 1.6 | (+) 10.4 | (-) 8.8 | (+) 0.7 | (+) 2.7 | (-) 1.8 | (+) 0.8 | (-) 1.1 |
| 1945 | (+) 6.7 | (-) 6.6 | (+) 3.0 | (-) 9.7 | (+) 19.3 | (+) 3.2 | (+) 24.0 | (+) 22.9 |

Sales in June, 1945 exceeded those in June, 1944 in all groups excepting musical instruments. Notable increases included women's underwear (52%), hosiery (30.4%) and fashion departments (29.9%) and men's and boys' boots and shoes (27.4%). In the furniture and hardware groups there were increases of 27.1% for soft furnishings, 15% for building materials, tools, etc., 40.5% for general hardware and 28.6% for electrical goods. Despite the greater turnover, all items of textiles and clothing showed heavier end of month stocks (overall an increase of 35.1%) as did all items of furniture and hardware, excepting musical instruments (-27.3%) and electrical goods (-1.8%).

RETAIL TRADE - SALES BY LARGE SYDNEY STORES.

Percentage movement from same month in Preceding Year.

| Month of June | Wearing Apparel. | | | | Household Piece Goods | Furniture and Hardware. |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| | Dress Piece Goods. | Women's Wear. | Men's & Boys' Wear. | Boots and Shoes. | | |
| 1942 | (-) 45.6 | (-) 31.3 | (-) 34.9 | (-) 8.9 | (-) 7.4 | (-) 7.2 |
| 1943 | (+) 70.4 | (+) 26.4 | (+) 9.0 | (+) 19.5 | (-) 41.0 | (-) 32.6 |
| 1944 | (-) 0.6 | (+) 5.5 | (+) 5.7 | (+) 4.7 | (+) 0.2 | (+) 1.9 |
| 1945 | (+) 17.3 | (+) 28.2 | (+) 18.9 | (+) 13.9 | (+) 14.8 | (+) 19.1 |

PART III INDUSTRY, TRANSPORT, ETC.

GENERAL. Transition Allowances. To meet unemployment occasioned by the sudden cessation of munitions, etc. production, transition allowances, payable one week after dismissal for a maximum period of six weeks have been provided by the Commonwealth for all persons unemployed from any cause during the period Aug. 15 to Nov. 15, 1945. Weekly rates of benefit are 50s. for adults and married men, 30s. for unmarried men aged 18 to 21 years and 15s. for persons under 18 years, plus allowances for dependants of 20s. for a wife and 5s. for one dependant child, subject to income and work tests.

Shipping Policy. Commonwealth post-war plans for shipping include control of interstate freight and charter rates, fares, routes and sailing times, reservation of interstate coastal trade for Australian ships which will not be licensed when 25 years old and merchant and naval shipbuilding programmes (subsidising the former if necessary). It will consider establishing and operating an oversea line.

Industrial Stoppages on the Coal Fields have resulted in prejudice to building materials supply and other industries, and curtailment of goods and passenger rail services (metropolitan and country).

Works. The National Works Council has approved as of "A" priority works totalling £192.89 m., including £31.21 m. in N.S.W. and an Australian total of £12.24 m. for housing. Works are to be undertaken, apart from those urgently necessary for reconstruction, as and where indicated by the employment situation.

Cotton Textiles. The Cotton Textile Manufacturers Association has submitted proposals for a capital expenditure of £7 m. to increase Australian production from 10-12 per cent. to about 40 per cent. of Australian requirements.

Motor Vehicles. Early abolition of petrol ration has been forecasted officially but may be affected by the ending of lend-lease arrangements. Tyre manufacturers are now concentrating on civilian production. More than 30,000 used Army vehicles are likely to be available for sale through the Disposals Commission shortly. Disposals at the rate of about 4,000 a month are expected.

Manufactures. Restrictions have been lifted on the manufacture of 43 items, including display cases, etc.; jewellery, badges, etc.; musical instruments advertising material, electric lighting ware, certain types of machinery, ornamental metal work, lawn mowers, vacuum cleaners, domestic washing machines, plated table ware, and many other wartime "non-essentials".

EMPLOYMENT. In the aggregate, with an increase of 1,900 males and 900 females for the month, employment in N.S.W. in June, 1945 surpassed (for the first time) the level in Dec. 1941 when war in the Pacific began. There were however, 29,500 more (9,400 of them males) in government employ and 27,800 fewer persons (33,900 fewer males and 5,200 more females) on private payrolls.

ESTIMATED SALARY AND WAGE EARNERS EMPLOYED IN N.S.W.

(Excludes Rural Workers and Household Domestics but includes Civil Construction Corps).

| End of Month. | MALES | | | FEMALES | | | TOTAL | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------|-------|--------------|---------|-------|--------------|---------|-------|
| | Govt. (a) | Private | Total | Govt. (a) | Private | Total | Govt. (a) | Private | Total |
| | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 |
| 1939-July | 136.5 | 393.4 | 529.9 | 19.4 | 148.6 | 168.0 | 155.9 | 542.0 | 697.9 |
| 1941-Dec. | 146.4 | 410.1 | 556.5 | 33.4 | 203.9 | 227.3 | 169.8 | 614.0 | 783.8 |
| 1943-June | 155.8 | 367.9 | 523.7 | 42.9 | 206.8 | 249.7 | 198.7 | 574.7 | 773.4 |
| 1944-May | 152.3 | 369.2 | 521.5 | 46.0 | 205.6 | 251.6 | 198.3 | 574.8 | 773.1 |
| June | 152.3 | 369.9 | 522.2 | 45.3 | 205.1 | 250.4 | 197.6 | 575.0 | 772.6 |
| 1945-May | 155.4 | 375.6 | 531.0 | 43.6 | 208.1 | 251.7 | 199.0 | 583.7 | 782.7 |
| June | 155.8 | 377.1 | 532.9 | 43.5 | 209.1 | 252.6 | 199.3 | 586.2 | 785.5 |

(a) Commonwealth, State, local, and Allied.

Factory employment, which in preceding months had decreased (with curtailment of war production) showed a gain of 1,300 men and a loss of 100 women in June, 1945. Employees in transport and communication increased by 500 males and 600 females, were unchanged in retail trade (-300 males, +300 females) and increased slightly in other groups, except that, with work for the Royal Navy nearing completion, there were slightly fewer engaged on Allied Works Council projects.

ESTIMATED TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN MAIN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

| End of Month. | Factory | | Mining & Quarrying | | A.W.C. Projects | Transport & Communication | | Retail Trade | | Other Commerce and Finance | | Professional & Personal Services (a) | |
|---------------|---------|------|--------------------|------|-----------------|---------------------------|------|--------------|------|----------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|------|
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 | '000 |
| 1939-July | 158.8 | 59.3 | | | Not available. | | | | | | | | |
| 1941-Dec. | 213.2 | 81.8 | 25.8 | .2 | ... | 81.8 | 8.4 | 41.2 | 44.3 | 42.6 | 19.2 | 52.3 | 58.2 |
| 1943-June | 218.9 | 94.6 | 25.2 | .2 | 15.9 | 80.2 | 12.3 | 28.9 | 39.1 | 33.5 | 20.7 | 43.5 | 62.2 |
| 1944-May | 217.7 | 92.2 | 24.6 | .2 | 7.3 | 82.8 | 13.7 | 28.5 | 37.3 | 34.2 | 20.2 | 45.0 | 65.2 |
| June | 217.8 | 91.8 | 24.4 | .2 | 6.8 | 84.4 | 13.8 | 28.6 | 37.3 | 34.5 | 20.3 | 45.1 | 65.4 |
| 1945-May | 213.2 | 87.9 | 24.3 | .2 | 8.9 | 86.7 | 14.0 | 30.0 | 39.0 | 35.7 | 20.3 | 46.9 | 68.6 |
| June | 214.5 | 87.8 | 24.4 | .2 | 8.6 | 87.2 | 14.6 | 29.7 | 39.3 | 35.9 | 20.5 | 47.3 | 68.8 |

(a) Including Education, Health, Hotels, Restaurants, and Professional and Personal Services (except private domestics) and building and construction other than A.W.C.

BUILDING INDUSTRY. Revival of the building industry is at the forefront of post-war plans; builders may now engage labour directly, release of workers for building and building materials from the Services and from war industries is to be accelerated and efforts are being made to increase supplies of timber from overseas and local sources. The States are to control production and allocation of building materials, and to take all possible measures to increase supplies. Because of the ending of the war the Government housing quota is expected to be increased. The Villawood explosives factory has been taken over by the State for the construction of pre-fabricated timber framed houses.

Private building permits show a very marked upward trend. In June Qr., 1945 the value in all recording areas in N.S.W. was £1,324,000 compared with £520,000 in June Qr., 1944, but was still less than one-third of the pre-war level.

The progressive upward trend in the metropolis continued in July, 1945 when permits of a value of £356,000 were granted - greatest of any month since December, 1941.

VALUE OF PRIVATE BUILDING PERMITS - SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.

| | | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May. | June | July | Jan-July. |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| 1939 | £000 | 864 | 999 | 993 | 932 | 1028 | 1270 | 1521 | 7607 |
| 1944 | £000 | 66 | 133 | 159 | 75 | 157 | 82 | 154 | 826 |
| 1945 | £000 | 145 | 192 | 178 | 200 | 235 | 305 | 356 | 1611 |

Government building has expanded also, mainly because of housing projects. For June Qr., 1945 the total was £1,245,000, compared with a quarterly average of £489,000 in 1944. Building projects on government account contracted for or authorised in July, 1945 amounted to £471,000 or nearly three times the monthly average in 1944 and 30% above the average for Jan-June, 1945.

The aggregate value of all recorded building (Government and private) in N.S.W. in June Qr., 1945 (£2,569,000) was $2\frac{1}{2}$ times greater than in June Qr., 1944 and approached within about 50% of that of June Qr., 1939 (pre-war).

VALUE OF GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE BUILDING - NEW SOUTH WALES.

| Quarter ended- | Metropolis | | | Country ϕ | | | Recorded Total | | |
|----------------|------------|--------|-------|----------------|--------|-------|----------------|--------|-------|
| | Private | Gov't. | Total | Private | Gov't. | Total | Private | Gov't. | Total |
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| 1939-June | 3,230 | (487) | 3,717 | 1,417 | (168) | 1,585 | 4,647 | (655) | 5,302 |
| 1944-June | 314 | 278 | 592 | 206 | 209 | 415 | 520 | 487 | 1,007 |
| Sept. | 436 | 542 | 978 | 257 | 386 | 643 | 693 | 928 | 1,621 |
| Dec. | 495 | 432 | 927 | 258 | 283 | 541 | 753 | 715 | 1,468 |
| 1945-Mar. | 514 | 610 | 1,124 | 329 | 307 | 636 | 843 | 917 | 1,760 |
| June | 740 | 925 | 1,665 | 584 | 320 | 904 | 1,324 | 1,245 | 2,569 |

ϕ 129 country towns and 7 semi-urban shires near Sydney.

Note. Figures for Government not available for June Qr., 1939; those shown are for Sept. Qr. 1939.

HOUSING.

A total of 1,529 new houses were covered by building permits or by Government projects in June Qr., 1945 in N.S.W. Of these 1,187 were on private account compared with 566 in the preceding quarter and 219 in the corresponding quarter of 1944. The number on Government account (342) was greatest of any wartime quarter. At the same time there has been a significant upward trend in aggregate value and average value per new house, as the following comparisons reveal:-

NUMBER AND VALUE OF NEW HOUSES - GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE - N.S.W.

| | 1943 June Qr. | 1944. June Qr. | Sept.Qr. | Dec.Qr. | 1945 Mar.Qr. | June Qr. |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------|----------|---------|-----------------|----------|
| Number | 225 | 298 | 547 | 644 | 758 | 1,529 |
| Value - £100 | 83 | 186 | 347 | 406 | 611 | 1,390 |
| Av.Value - £ | 369 | 624 | 634 | 630 | 806 | 909 |

In July, 1945 private permits in Sydney and Suburbs covered 255 new houses (a record for the wartime recovery period) and there were 210 contracted for or authorised on Government account. At a recent date the N.S.W. Housing Commission had 1,114 houses in progress and 450 had been completed and were occupied. The extent of the revival in house building is illustrated in the following table; a large proportion of the new houses shown under "country" were located in the semi-urban shires near Sydney (e.g. Sutherland and Warringah).

NUMBER AND VALUE OF NEW HOUSES - PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT - N.S.W.

| Period. | Private Permits. | | | | On Gov't.Account. | | | | Combined Total. | | | |
|---------------|------------------|-------|---------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------|-------|-----------------|-------|----------|-------|
| | Metrop'n. | | Country | | Metrop'n. | | Country | | Metrop'n. | | Country. | |
| | No. | Value | No. | Value | No. | Value | No. | Value | No. | Value | No. | Value |
| | | £000 | | £000 | | £000 | | £000 | | £000 | | £000 |
| 1943 June Qr. | 24 | 21 | 85 | 25 | - | - | 106 | 37 | 24 | 21 | 201 | 62 |
| 1944 June Qr. | 59 | 53 | 160 | 61 | 77 | 69 | 2 | 3 | 136 | 122 | 162 | 64 |
| Sept.Qr. | 107 | 78 | 191 | 84 | 151 | 183 | 98 | 101 | 258 | 162 | 289 | 185 |
| Dec. Qr. | 145 | 131 | 233 | 112 | 211 | 238 | 55 | 51 | 356 | 243 | 288 | 163 |
| 1945 Mar. Qr. | 261 | 207 | 305 | 166 | 110 | 135 | 82 | 103 | 371 | 342 | 387 | 269 |
| June Qr. | 544 | 496 | 643 | 413 | 286 | 367 | 56 | 68 | 830 | 909 | 699 | 481 |
| July(mth) | 255 | 256 | ... | ... | 194 | 229 | 16 | 13 | 449 | 485 | ... | ... |

TRANSPORT.

Railways. In July, 1945 compared with July, 1944 the N.S.W. railways carried 1.13 million more passengers and 72,000 tons less of goods and livestock. Gross earnings were £50,000 lower but working expenses increased by £112,000, so that operating results were £162,000 less favourable.

Although all wartime transport controls have been revoked, the shortage of coal has necessitated the curtailment of services; the number of trucks available for general goods (not perishables) was reduced by 15 per cent. from August 27; sleeping cars have been discontinued, country train passenger services were reduced from Sept. 2, and metropolitan passenger services are to be curtailed from Sept. 10, 1945.

NEW SOUTH GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

| Month of July | Passenger Journeys | Goods & Livestock Tonnage | Gross Earnings | Working Expenses | Net Earnings. |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Million | 000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| 1939 | 15.2 | 1386 | 1,542 | 1,172 | 370 |
| 1941 | 16.8 | 1460 | 2,048 | 1,425 | 623 |
| 1942 | 18.3 | 1659 | 2,725 | 1,617 | 1,108 |
| 1943 | 19.7 | 1735 | 2,952 | 1,974 | 978 |
| 1944 | 21.2 | 1647 | 2,684 | 1,925 | 759 |
| 1945 | 22.3 | 1575 | 2,634 | 2,037 | 597 |

GOVERNMENT TRAMS AND 'BUSES.

In the year ended June, 1945 a record number (545.9 million) passengers were carried on government trams and 'buses in Sydney and Newcastle. Gross earnings (£5.8 m.) were greater than in any earlier year, but the increase in working expenses has outstripped that in earnings and net earnings (£442,000) were lowest of any wartime year and probably insufficient to cover capital charges (sinking fund, interest, exchange and current depreciation) which totalled £547,000 in 1943-44. In comparison with 1938-39 passenger journeys showed an increase of 172.3 million (46.1%); gross earnings were £1.42 m. (32.4%) greater and working expenses had risen by £1.65 m. or by 44.5%).

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT TRAMS AND 'BUSES, SYDNEY AND NEWCASTLE.

| Year ended June | Passenger Journeys | Gross Earnings | Working Expenses.x | Net Earnings ø |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | Millions | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| 1939 | 376.6 | 4,374 | 3,702 | 672 |
| 1941 | 406.9 | 4,790 | 3,932 | 858 |
| 1942 | 476.6 | 5,429 | 4,646 | 783 |
| 1943 | 501.0 | 5,582 | 4,946 | 636 |
| 1944 | 534.5 | 5,700 | 5,145 | 555 |
| 1945 | 545.9 | 5,790 | 5,348 | 442 |

x. Excluding depreciation. ø Gross earnings, less working expenses available to meet depreciation and interest, etc. on loan debt.

MOTOR VEHICLES.

A weekly average of only 8 cars and 48 lorries and vans were registered for the first time in N.S.W. in July, 1945. Comparatively few new vehicles will become available for some time, but the release and sale of Army used vehicles may cause a substantial increase in first registrations.

Total registrations have increased less rapidly in 1945 than in 1944 as shown in table below. In the seven months ended July, 1945 only 1103 additional cars were registered while there was an increase in lorries and vans of 3,012.

MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

| Type of vehicle. | New Registrations. | | | | All Registered Motor Vehicles. | | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| | July, 1939 | July, 1944. | July, 1945. | Aug., 1939 | No. at end of - | | | Increase in Jan.-July | | |
| | | | | | July x 1942. | July, 1944. | July, 1945. | 1939. | 1944. | 1945. |
| | Av. No. per week. | | | 000 | 0000 | 000 | 000 | | | |
| Cars | 310 | 4 | 8 | 216.6 | 170.0 | 181.3 | 185.5 | 4,225 | 4,009 | 1,103 |
| Lorries and Vans | 144 | 73 | 48 | 77.6 | 70.3 | 78.3 | 83.5 | 847 | 3,239 | 3,012 |
| All Vehicles ø | 554 | 77 | 56 | 329.2 | 267.4 | 286.7 | 299.1 | 5,404 | 8,268 | 5,554 |

ø Total cars, lorries and vans only for new registrations. x Lowest wartime number of cars.